

Message Text

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ACTION STR-07

INFO OCT-01 ARA-10 ISO-00 STRE-00 EB-08 NSC-05 TRSE-00
COME-00 CEA-01 CIAE-00 INR-10 LAB-04 NSAE-00
SIL-01 /047 W
-----089054 141659Z /44-50
R 111422Z AUG 78
FM AMEMBASSY KINGSTON
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2800

C O N F I D E N T I A L KINGSTON 6315

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: ELAB, ETRD, JM
SUBJECT: REQUEST FOR INFORMATION ON LABOR STANDARDS

REF: (A) STATE 194523, (B) STATE 136706

THE FOLLOWING INFORMATION ON LABOR LAWS AND PRACTICES IS PROVIDED
IN RESPONSE TO PARA 3 OF REFTEL (B):

A. THERE IS NO SLAVE, INDENTURED, OR OTHER FORCED LABOR IN JAMAICA;

B. JAMAICA HAS A CHILD LABOR LAW BY WHICH NO CHILD UNDER THE AGE OF
15 YEARS IS ALLOWED TO WORK IN ANY ENTERPRISE EXCEPT FOR A FAMILY-
OWNED BUSINESS. THIS REGULATIONS IS PART OF THE JUVENILE LAW
WHICH IS ADMINISTERED BY THE MINISTRY OF LABOR AND EMPLOYMENT;

C. SAFETY REGULATIONS FOR THE WORK PLACE ARE CONTAINED IN THE
FACORIES ACT AND REGULATIONS ADMINISTERED BY THE MINISTRY OF LABOR
AS CONCERNS WORKER EXPOSURE TO TOXIC SUBSTANCES; THIS ACT REQUIRES
EMPLOYERS TO PROVIDE THE NECESSARY EQUIPMENT TO PROTECT WORKERS.

D. THERE ARE NO SPECIAL LABOR REGULATIONS OR STANDARDS GOVERNING FREE
TRADE ZONE OR INDUSTRIAL EXPORT/TARGET IMPORT SUBSTITUTION INDUSTRIES
OR EXPORT-ORIENTED FOREIGN MANUFACTURING INVESTMENTS. IN ALL CASES
STANDARD JAMAICAN LABOR REGULATIONS APPLY, E.G. RIGHT TO UNIONIZE,
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COLLECTIVE BARGAINING OR STRIKE (THE ONLY EXCEPTION TO RIGHT TO
STRIKE IS CONTAINED IN THE ESSENTIAL SERVICES LAW WHICH FORBIDS
STRIKES IN CERTAIN UTILITIES AND SERVICE ORGANIZATIONS, E.G. HOSPITALS

ALTHOUGH EVEN THIS IS NOT ALWAYS OBSERVED.)

JAMAICA DOES HAVE A NATIONAL MINIMUM WAGE LAW ALSO ENFORCED BY THE

MINISTRY OF LABOR WHICH IS CURRENTLY J\$24 FOR A 40-HOUR WORK WEEK WITH

PROVISIONS FOR OVERTIME RATES.

ALL PRACTICES DESCRIBED ABOVE APPLY TO THE ENTIRE ECONOMY AND NOT
ONLY EXPORT AND IMPORT SUBSTITUTION SECTORS.

HAVERKAMP

NOTE BY OC/T: KINGSTON 6315 DELAYED IN TRANSMISSION.

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NNN

Message Attributes

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